



Southwest Area Incident Management Team

For Immediate

July 17, 2006

Navajo Mountain #1 Fire

Release #4

Firefighters Gain Momentum on Navajo Mountain Fire

Firefighters made substantial gains on the Navajo Mountain Fire Thursday and Friday as cooler temperatures, higher humidity, and favorable winds aided them in reaching 25 percent containment. The fire is located on the Navajo Nation, 30 air-miles east of Page, Arizona and next to the Utah communities of Navajo Mountain and Rainbow City.

Dan Oltrogge, Incident Commander of the Type 1 Southwest Incident Management Team said, "We were given two days of favorable conditions to strengthen our containment lines prior to the start of forecasted hot and dry weather. Our crews, aided by strong air support, have made great progress in establishing new containment lines and strengthening existing lines, particularly around the communication sites."

Residential areas in the lower elevations of the mountain are no longer thought to be in immediate danger. While it is still too early for certainty, we are increasingly optimistic that homes and structures will be safe, Oltrogge said.

During the first two days of the fire, steep terrain and strong gusty winds challenged firefighters. Heavy fuels in this area continue to create low to moderate fire behavior.

On Saturday morning 512 personnel were on the firefighting effort. Ten firefighting crews will work on the fire today, teamed up with 7 assigned helicopters and 8 engine crews. Oltrogge said, "Other large fires are occurring in the Southwest and firefighter resources are in demand in other areas. As our conditions improve, resources will be re-assigned to other fires."

A burn ban is in place for the Navajo Nation. This includes: no open flame, no burning of trash or vegetation, and smoking in buildings or vehicles only. Propane stoves are allowed.

For more information, call the Navajo Mountain Fire Information Office

1-866-525-8173 or 1-866-525-8174

E-mail: oltroggeswimt@yahoo.com

For maps of the Navaho Mountain #1 Fire:

<http://www.fireteam-sw.com/oltrogge/current.htm>

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